Legislation for Senior Citizens

1301. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to legislate regarding the issue of integration of senior citizens into a society and to make it mandatory for children to support their elderly parents or face legal suits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No legislation is proposed as a provision for maintenance of parents already exists in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973.

National Policy of Minority Commission

1302. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the national policy of the National Minority Commission;

(b) number of State Minority Commissions now constituted in various States alongwith their names;

(c) whether the State Minority Commissions have their own policies; and

(d) if so, the details of their policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Commission for Minorities is a statutory body working under an Act of Parliament known as National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. The policies and working of the National Commission for Minorities are governed by the provisions of the Act.

(b) to (d) State Minority Commissions have been set up in the States of Bihar, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal under their respective State Minorities Commission Acts. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has passed the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Act 1998 and the process to constitute the State Minorities Commission is on. The provisions of these Acts are more or less, the same as that of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. A non-statutory State Minorities Commission is functioning in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Displaced Tribals of Manipur

1303. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any national policy of rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced tribes;

(b) whether this policy can apply to the rehabilitation and resettlement of Manipuri tribals who have left their villages due to their ethnic clashes; and

(c) if so, the measures taken up so far for rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced Manipuri tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Projects Approved BY NHFDC

1304. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has received projects from Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the number of projects which have been approved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) "Yes", Sir.

(b) The NHFDC was incorporated on 24th January, 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. NHFDC has an authorised share capital of Rs. 400/- crores and a paid up capital of Rs. 200/- crores. The entire equity is held by Government of India. NHFDC is functioning as an apex financial institution for routing funds through the channelising agencies authorised by the State Govts./UT Administrations. The registered office of the NHFDC is at Faridabad (Haryana). The objective of the Corporation is to provide financial assistance for self employment and entrepreneurship development to persons with minimum disability of 40%. The disabled persons whose family income is upto five times the poverty line will be eligible for availing loan factility.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Dies not arise.

Legislation for Elderly Persons

1305. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Legal safety net urged to take care of the elderly" that appreared in 'The Times of India' dated the 17th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interests of the elderly in our society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a measure of its concern for the care of the elderly, the Government has a number of on-going schemes for older persons including;

(i) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes related to the Aged Under which Grants-in-Aid are provided to Voluntary Organisations for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Unites for older persons.

(ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayti Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations under which Grants-in-Aid are provided to eligible organisations for construction of Old Age Homes.

(iii) The National Old Age Pension Scheme under which monthly pension is provided to the destitute elderly.

Further, provision alredy exists in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 regarding maintenance of parents by their children.

Increase in Aged Population

1306. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive study has been undertaken to measure the rate of increase in the number of aged people, especially beyond 60 years, and the economic and social problems they are facing today;

(b) if so, the results of the studies and remedial steps being taken to provide help and succour to the needy and helpless; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?